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# hamilton county

RVATION AREA

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## THE AREA

Hamilton County Conservation Area, also known as Dolan Lake, is in Hamilton County about 8 miles southeast of McLeansboro off Route 460. The park was established at the urging of the McLeansboro Kiwanis Club. In 1960 the state made its initial acquisition of 99 acres of land. Subsequent purchases have brought the total acreage to 1,683, of which 76 acres are water.

## THE LAKE

Dolan Lake is the main attraction of the park. The earthen dam was constructed in 1962 and the lake was filled shortly thereafter. The lake has a shoreline of 3 miles and a maximum depth of 18 feet.

## THE NATURAL SCENE

The site is one of gently rolling hills. Most of the hunting area is small open fields bordered by heavy fence rows, border plantings of multi-flora rose, autumn olive, lespedeza, and pine trees with small patches of brush and timber. Food for the upland game is supplied by patch planting in the area.

## FACILITIES

**Picnicking:** There are large, shaded picnic areas with tables, outdoor stoves and drinking water.

**Camping:** Tent and trailer sites available, with electricity and sanitary dump stations for the trailers. Campers need to obtain a permit from the site manager.

**Fishing:** The lake contains largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and bullheads. Winter fishing is allowed when the ice is thick enough.

**Boating:** A launching ramp and rental boats are provided. Motors are limited to 10 horsepower.

## Hunting Regulations

1. Hunting is restricted to those portions of the areas posted as open to hunting.
2. Check station is present on the area (see map), and all hunters, except squirrel hunters, shall check in and secure a back patch to be displayed at all times while hunting in the area.



3. All hunters, including squirrel hunters, are to check out and report their day's take.
4. All hunting to be with shotgun or bow and arrow only.

Check with the site ranger for upland game species and hunting dates. The area is heavily used by upland game hunters and as a field trial area. Approximately 1,300 acres of land are available for hunting.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

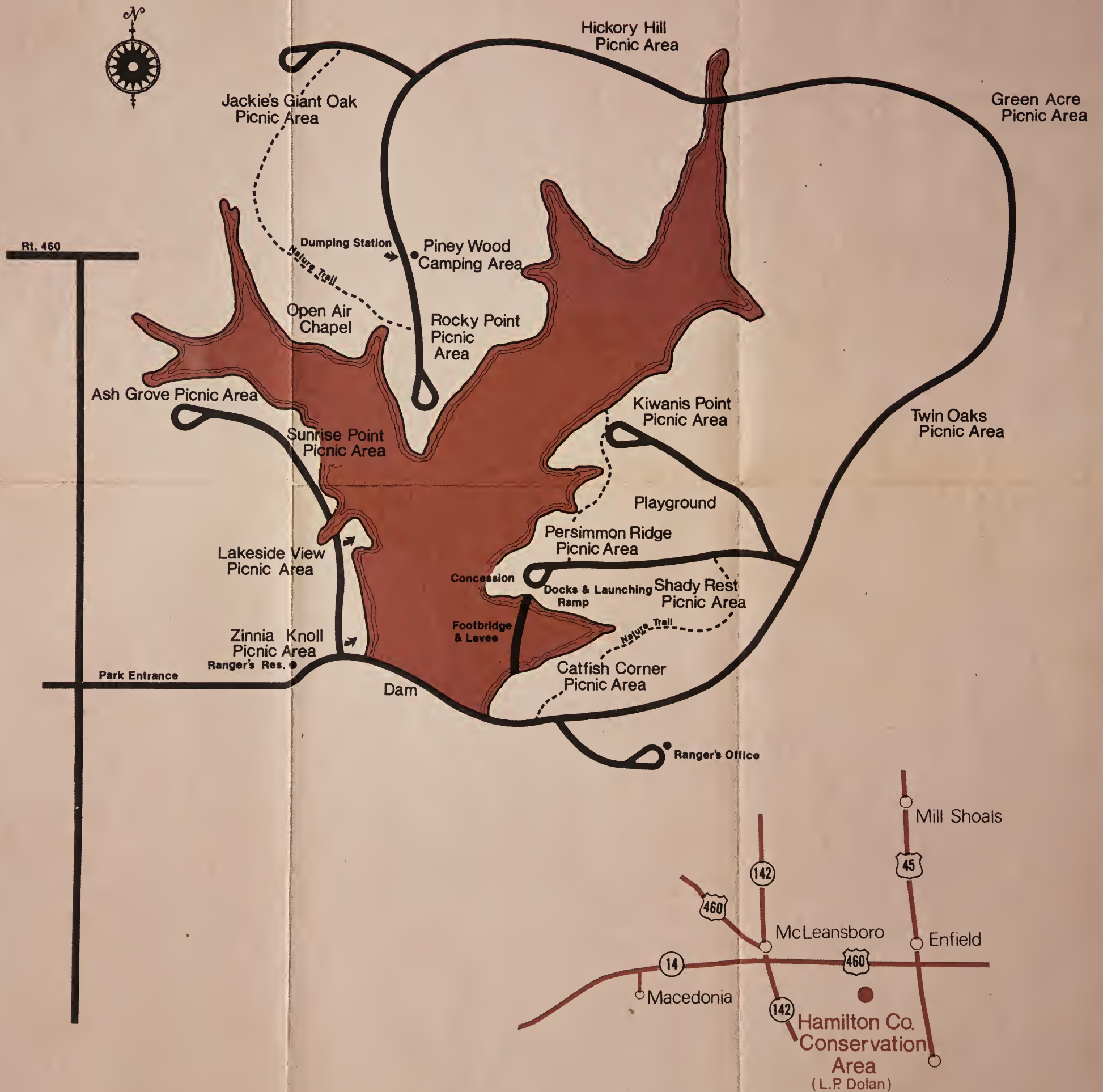
Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, R.R. 4, McLeansboro, 62859, phone 618/773-4340. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Division, State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.



# Park Maps



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